

JOB CORPS

PARTNERSHIPS THAT WORK

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Allan
Kaufman
pg. 2

Regional
Alpha Award
Winners!
pg. 2

Letters to the
Editor
pg. 2

Making the
Connection
pg. 3

Ask Arla
pg. 3

JC Union
Nets Natl.
Ranking
pg. 4

Center
Tidbits
pg. 4



Hail to the Student

Carrasco Job Corps' Dianna Hernandez Meets President Bush

By Jim Braden,
reporter for the *Eastside Reporter*
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from the *Eastside Reporter*

Some call it chance. Others think it was the luck of the draw. Maybe the hard work of Dianna Hernandez paid off.

Whatever the ingredients, Hernandez was chosen from dozens of Job Corps students across the nation to participate in President George Bush's economic forum at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, on August 13, 2002.

The Ysleta High School graduate's world revolves around the David L. Carrasco Job Corps center in El Paso, the El Paso Community College, and her work. She has finished her first year in the nursing program at the Job Corps center. She's attending the community college and also working part-time as a certified nursing assistant for homebound, handicapped patients of Educare.

On Education and Workers

"It was exciting, totally unexpected," she says now, speaking softly through a warm smile. "I was on a panel which talked about education and working." Hernandez became friends with Bob Nardelli, president and chief executive offi-

cer of the Home Depot stores based in Atlanta; Jennifer Alexander, secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development; Joyce Bales, superintendent of the Pueblo, Colorado Schools; and Eduardo Padron, president of Florida's Miami Dade-County Junior Col-



Dianna Hernandez meets President George W. Bush

lege. Others on Hernandez's panel included Carly Fiorina, chairman and chief executive officer of Hewlett-Packard, and John Chambers, president and chief executive officer of Cisco Systems, Inc.

Hernandez says everyone had a fair chance to state his or her case. "One of the questions for me was, 'Why do you want to be a nurse?' My answer was that we know we have a shortage of nurses and I would like to contribute to eliminating that shortage. Ever since I was little I've wanted to take care of people – especially since my

mom is a retired nurse's assistant," she says.

Friends in High Places

Hernandez also became fast friends with Elaine Chao, federal secretary of Labor and the assistant secretary, Emily deRocco. She says Chao befriended her, put her at ease, and made sure she got pictures of the Job Corps student with the nation's chief executive. She met Bush at a luncheon for the participants. "He asked me where I was from. I told him El Paso, and he told me his wife and mother-in-law are from El Paso," Hernandez says. "He also asked me why I want to be a nurse, and then he gave me a hug

and a kiss and told me to say hello to everybody in El Paso."

The Path to Waco

Mary Young is head of El Paso's legendary David L. Carrasco Job Corps facility, which is often cited as the best of its kind in the nation. The federally funded Job Corps program takes El Paso's economically deficient teenage students, gives them an education, trains them in a skill, and places them in their first jobs.

The El Paso Job Corps center is operated by the Texas Educational Foundation, a non-profit corpora-



Employment and
Training Administration

Continued on page 3

JOB CORPS News

Needed: A Definition of Transition Coordinator Everyone Can Live With

By Allan Kaufman



The Transition Coordinator is supposed to be the connection between the center and the Career Advisors. Unfortunately, the job of Transition Coordinator seems the most poorly defined of

all the positions in the CDSS. This problem of definition appears to begin at the staff level – we just don't have a clear description of what this job is supposed to be. That pretty much leaves it up to each center to define it as it suits them.

The way the centers define the job of Transition Coordinator pretty much indicates how they see their role in the CDSS system. If they see themselves as responsible for the long-term success of their graduates (as

Congress clearly does) then the Transition Coordinator serves as an active link between the Career Advisor and the center's resources – a way of making sure the graduates are fully prepared to succeed in the job market and that career preparation is custom-tailored to each student's needs.

If, on the other hand, centers see themselves as they used to be – as academics churning out graduates in a range of skills – then what happens after graduation becomes less important than the process that leads up to it. In these centers, the job of Transition Coordinator is essentially to cut the student's ties to the center and cast him or her adrift in the job market.

The line between the two kinds of centers is essentially a line between the future and the past.

In the future, we will have continuous feedback loops which enable us to tailor our training to an individual student's needs, while in the past we have had a win or lose situation where a student either fits in or he doesn't, either learns a skill the way we teach it, or else gives up on us.

Right now, we are wrestling with a system in transition between the way it used to be and the way it has to become. Most symbolic of that transition are the varying definitions of the job of Transition Coordinator. It is time to adopt one definition and stick to it. The Transition Coordinator has to be a critical part of the student's career preparation and the critical link between the center and the Career Advisor. Nothing less will work.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I just wanted to comment on the great new look that is spreading through our promotional items and the newsletter. The new center fact sheets and posters are great! I hope that there are plans to spread this "new" look to more items.

Editor's Note: The "new" look will also appear on banners and door hangers; discussions of other items are also in the works. Thanks for the feedback!

Dear Editor:

I just wanted to comment on how much I enjoy reading Allan Kaufman's article in each newsletter. He hits home with a lot of the subject matter we deal with on a day-to-day basis. It's really helpful to know that he is trying to suggest ways for us to improve our methods.

Editor's Note: We're glad that you've enjoyed Kaufman's articles. He has recently written a couple of monographs for us that you should find as equally beneficial. The monograph series by Kaufman should arrive in conjunction with this newsletter. Keep an eye out for them and let us or him know what you think as he's always eager to get feedback from you all.

Regional Alpha Award Winners!

- Superintendent Sandy Garrett and her staff have removed significant barriers and designed procedures to allow the formation of the Oklahoma Job Corps Academy. This State of Oklahoma-accredited, diploma-issuing high school district encompasses the four Oklahoma Job Corps campuses: Guthrie, Talking Leaves, Treasure Lake, and Tulsa. The Superintendent was required to assign staff, clarify and interpret state school laws pertaining to accreditation, and navigate multiple barriers on behalf of Job Corps and its students. Without Superintendent Garrett's desire to ensure that "no child is left behind educationally," it would have been literally impossible to create the Job Corps school district that will award high school diplomas. Superintendent Garrett is a long-term board member of the Oklahoma Job Corps Coalition and a member of the Talking Leaves Community Relations Council.
- Dell Computers is instituting a mentoring program in which Gary Job Corps Center graduates, who now work for Dell full-time, help Work-Based Learning stu-

dents transition into the Dell operation. In the past 12 months, Dell Computers, through its contract agency Spherion, has hired 479 students from Gary Job Corps Center to work in its main plant in Round Rock, Texas, as a part of the Work-Based Learning program. Dell was singled out for recognition by Management & Training Corporation last year and was awarded 2001 MTC Partnership Award for its work with Gary Job Corps Center. Dell is active in the Rural Capital Area Workforce Development Board's Summer Educator Internship program. Under the current agreement with Dell, Gary provides a minimum of 50 students per quarter; but during the Christmas season that doubles, with 50 students working the morning shift and 50 working the night shift. Students are required to set up savings accounts into which 75% of their earnings go to supplement their readjustment allowance and better prepare them for their transition to independent living.

Resource: National Job Corps Association website

JOB CORPS News

Continued from page 1 – Hail to the Student

tion that contracts with the Department of Labor solely for the purpose of operating Job Corps installations.

Young received a call from Richard Trigg, national director of Job Corps, saying [the center] needed a student to be nominated for a possible inclusion in a White House event. “Dianna was our student of the month in May and we had a very nice photograph of her and an article in ‘La Palabra,’ our Job Corps newsletter,” Young reminisced. “Along with her resumé, we very quickly sent those documents by fax to Richard Trigg.”

Young says the national office had called a number of Job Corps centers around the country asking for the same thing, and Trigg sent a number of nominations to the White House. Hernandez was selected as the only Job Corps student to be picked for the meet-

ing. “The story [Trigg] was told on August 8 – the Thursday before the Baylor University meeting – is that, when the possible nominations were presented to the President, Bush said, ‘I want her.’”

Leticia Chavez is responsible for the nursing program at the Job Corps center – the only such program certified in Texas, says Young. Chavez was Hernandez’s vocational training instructor for nursing, and was tapped to be the student’s traveling chaperone.

On With her Studies

Hernandez is attending El Paso Community College’s advanced nursing program, then plans to transfer to the University of Texas at El Paso’s nursing program. Eventually, she plans to become a physician.

She’s aware of the serious responsibilities of being a nurse; “Patients’ lives are in my

hands,” she says. “Ethics are the most important qualities I can bring to my work as a nurse. I want to help people, to work with people in need.”

Getting prepared, getting all the training she can, is her way of finding the confidence to deal with those life-and-death decisions. Decisions, she thinks, that perhaps are not unlike the responsibilities in the president’s hands, too.

Is she tired of talking about the Baylor meetings?

“Not yet,” she says, giggling. “I think the president is genuinely concerned about the shortage of nurses. He was a very nice person – I would never have expected something like that. He walked up and greeted every person in the room.”

Making the Connection

David L. Carrasco Job Corps’ staff recently played host to Treasure Lake’s Residential Programs Manager, K.T. Bonner, Center Standards Officer, Randy Thompson, and Recreation Supervisor, Robert Gillan. The trio visited the D.L. Carrasco Center to gain valuable insight on the center’s highly suc-

cessful recreation program. The guests toured the recreational and physical fitness areas, met all Recreation staff members, and interacted with some of the students. When asked about the recreational activities and facilities on center, students replied, “It is very nice and we like it here.” A few days

after the visit, D.L. Carrasco’s staff followed up with their guests and was thanked for the tour. Treasure Lake plans to utilize some of the things they saw on center in their recreation program. This is a prime example of how we can learn from each other and make the Dallas Region the best!

Ask Arla



Dear Arla,

We’re trying to get a banner made for an upcoming recruiting event and they are asking for a specific type of file for the Job

Corps logo. Can you help?

M.R. – Texas

Dear M.R.,

We certainly can! Just find out what type of file you need and Cutting Edge’s art/production department can email or send a disk to the printing company for you. Please feel free to call us with any questions about printing your own materials – that’s what we’re here for!!

Dear Arla,

Our center didn’t get a copy of the official Academic Rules for this year. Have they been sent out?

S.M. – Texas

Dear S.M.,

Yes, they were sent out in June and I’ll send you a copy. I’m glad you’ve brought this up. This year I will be in charge of coordinating the Academic Olympics, which will be held in San Antonio, Texas. A second notice with more information and details should be en route to centers at this time. This next notice is extremely important, as it will request a team and coach roster for each center, as well as more life skills questions

for the competition. If you have any questions about the Academic Olympics, please feel free to contact me (my number is listed below) and I’ll answer any questions you have. Good luck to all the teams!

All articles, information, Letters to the Editor, Ask Arla letters, and CDSS Directory changes for the November newsletter are due by **Monday, October 28, 2002**, to:

Arla de Hoyos
922 S. Alamo
San Antonio, Texas 78205
210.226.2827 phone
210.226.6827 fax
rla@cuttingedgesa.com

Laredo Community College, Job Corps Union Nets National Ranking

Times Staff Reports

Reprinted with permission of the *Laredo Morning Times*

A one-of-a-kind partnership between Laredo Community College [LCC] and the Laredo Job Corps Center [LJCC] has gained recognition at the regional and national levels.

The local Job Corps Center is ranked first in the region and second in the nation for the quality of its vocational instruction programs. Overall, the center is ranked 26th in the nation. The ranking is for the annual period between July 2001 and June 2002.

Since its establishment in Laredo in 1980, LCC has been under contract to provide vocational instruction to students at the LJCC, which enrolls 250 students annually.

Job Corps is the nation's largest and most comprehensive residential, education, and job training program for at-risk youth, ages 16 through 24. The LJCC is the only Job Corps program in the United States that works hand-in-hand with a community college to provide formal vocational instruction.

The LJCC offers vocational instruction in health occupations, building and apart-

ment maintenance, electrical training, security, business occupations training, culinary arts, welding, and its newest program K-9 handlers. The 11 faculty, five staff members, and one administrator who oversee the vocational instruction at the LJCC are employees of Laredo Community College.

"Laredo Community College is proud of our faculty and staff for bringing regional and national prestige to our vocational training programs in the LJCC," LCC Chief Development Officer Blas Castañeda said.

"LCC has always maintained an aim to deliver a quality education to our students. And the college will continue working with the Job Corps center to maintain our long-standing commitment to excellence in education."

John Bruce, LJCC director since 1986, described the rankings as an excellent example of the steadfast union and total commitment that LJCC and LCC share.

"Our relationship is unique because no other Job Corps in the U.S.A. is in partnership with the local community college. And who benefits the most, our students. (The college) has stepped-up to the plate for the LJCC, and I acknowledge and appreciate

that tremendously," said Bruce.

Saúl González Jr., is the coordinator for the LCC/LJCC instruction contract. Raúl Treviño is the vocational training manager for LJCC.

There are a total of 116 Job Corps Centers located in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. In the five-state region, which includes the LJCC, there are 15 centers.

Since its inauguration in 1964, under the Economic Opportunity Act, Job Corps has provided more than 2 million disadvantaged young people with the integrated academic, vocational, and social skill training they need to gain independence and get quality, long-term jobs, or further their education. Job Corps is funded by Congress and administered through the U.S. Department of Labor. LJCC is operated by the Vinnell Corporation, a recognized leader in educational and vocational training, facilities operation and maintenance, military training, and logistics support in the United States and overseas. It is a TRW Company, which provides advanced technology, systems and services worldwide.

Center Tidbits



Pictured from left to right, Shane Johnson (Processing Manager, Butler Manufacturing), Dick Wehman (President, Gary Job Corps Business Industry Council), and Lonnie Hall (Director, Gary Job Corps Community)

Gary Job Corps

Butler Manufacturing was recently recognized as the Work-Based Learning site of the quarter during the Gary Community Business Industry Council meeting. Butler serves as a training site where students in the welding trade (five students this quarter) can utilize skills that they have acquired in a real work setting. The Gary Community currently

has 48 Work-Based Learning sites in the Central Texas area.

Guthrie Job Corps

After spending about an hour trying to find someone to help him at a local Home Depot, Guthrie Center Director Rick Myers advised the store manager that Job Corps could help him overcome the store's staffing shortage. As a result of the discussion that ensued, the Guthrie Job Corps Center now has two plumbing students doing paid Work-Based Learning at Home Depot. The store manager has asked to hire them full-time upon graduation, requested more paid Work-Based Learning students from other construction trades, and has offered letters of recommendation on Home Depot letterhead to any graduate who successfully completes Work-Based Learning there and is relocating

to another city that has a Home Depot store.

Tulsa Job Corps

Congratulations to Nuceka M. Chatman, BCL Manager, who was officially sworn into the Will Rogers Rotary Club in April 2002. The main objective of the Rotary Club is to encourage and foster ideal services to the international and local communities as a basic worthy enterprise.

Oklahoma Job Corps Academy Tulsa Campus' Superintendent, Mrs. Kim Wedel, announced the first class of the High School Program. With its first batch of students, the program is underway. Current High School Instructor, Mrs. Tracy Galligan, will be assisting students with all aspects of high school from transcript evaluations to graduation.